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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-eighth session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child and expressed the hope that it would come into force at an early date. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 26 January 1990 and, in accordance with article 49 thereof, entered into force on 2 September 1990, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. In its resolution 1991/52 of 6 March 1991, the Commission on Human Rights called upon all States that had not done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority; recognized the important functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in overseeing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention; emphasized the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention; invited United Nations bodies and organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on the Convention and promoting its understanding; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

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3. As at 16 December 1991, the Convention had received 133 signatures, 96 of which had been followed by ratification. In addition, 9 States had acceded to the Convention, bringing the total of ratifications and accessions to the Convention to 105. A list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, and the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, appears in the annex to the present report.

4. The first meeting of States Parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General on 27 February 1991 at United Nations Headquarters in order to elect the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The membership of the Committee for 1991-1993 is as follows:

Mrs. Hoda BADRAN (Egypt)
Mgr. Luis A. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI (Peru)
Mrs. Akila BELEMBAOGO (Burkina Faso)
Mrs. Maria de Fatima BORGES DE OMENA (Brazil)
Mrs. Flora C. EUFEMIO (Philippines)
Mr. Thomas HAMMARBERG (Sweden)
Mr. Youri KOLOSOV (USSR)
Ms. Sandra Prunella MASON (Barbados)
Mr. Swithun MOMBESHORA (Zimbabwe)
Mrs. Marta SANTOS PAIS (Portugal).

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its first session from 30 September to 18 October 1991 at United Nations Office at Geneva. At its first session, the Committee elected its officers and adopted its provisional rules of procedure (CRC/C/4), its general guidelines regarding the form and content of initial reports to be submitted by States parties under article 44, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention (CRC/C/5) and its report (CRC/C/7).

6. In its resolution 46/112 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly supported the organization of the future work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the basis of two sessions per year, each of two or three weeks duration, and the establishment of a pre-sessional working group for a preliminary review of reports from States parties; decided to take appropriate action on the recommendations of the Committee at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the basis of the biannual report which the Committee is expected to submit to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council; invited the Secretary-General to convene a brief meeting of the States parties to the Convention, preferably during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to determine the duration of the future meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, prior to the consideration of the question by the Assembly; and invited the Secretary-General to consider favourably the possibility of enabling a working group of the whole of the Committee to meet in 1992.

Annex

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as at 16 December 1991

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Afghanistan	27 September 1990	
Albania	26 January 1990	
Algeria	26 January 1990	
Angola	14 February 1990	5 December 1990
Antigua and Barbuda	12 March 1991	
Argentina	29 June 1990	4 December 1990
Australia	22 August 1990	17 December 1990
Austria	26 January 1990	
Bahamas	30 October 1990	20 February 1991
Bangladesh	26 January 1990	3 August 1990
Barbados	19 April 1990	9 October 1990
Belarus	26 January 1990	1 October 1990
Belgium	26 January 1990	16 December 1991
Belize	2 March 1990	2 May 1990
Benin	25 April 1990	3 August 1990
Bhutan	4 June 1990	1 August 1990
Bolivia	8 March 1990	26 June 1990
Brazil	26 January 1990	24 September 1990
Bulgaria	31 May 1990	3 June 1991
Burkina Faso	26 January 1990	31 August 1990
Burundi	8 May 1990	19 October 1990
Cameroon	25 September 1990	
Canada	28 May 1990	13 December 1991
Central African Republic	30 July 1990	
Chad	30 September 1990	2 October 1990
Chile	26 January 1990	13 August 1990
China	29 August 1990	
Colombia	26 January 1990	28 January 1991
Comoros	30 September 1990	
Costa Rica	26 January 1990	21 August 1990
Côte d'Ivoire	26 January 1990	4 February 1991
Cuba	26 January 1990	21 August 1991
Cyprus	5 October 1990	7 February 1991
Czech and Slovak Fed. Rep.	30 September 1990	7 January 1991
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	23 August 1990	21 September 1990

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Denmark	26 January 1990	19 July 1991
Djibouti	30 September 1990	6 December 1990
Dominica	26 January 1990	13 March 1991
Dominican Republic	8 August 1990	11 June 1991
Ecuador	26 January 1990	23 March 1990
Egypt	5 February 1990	6 July 1990
El Salvador	26 January 1990	10 July 1990
Estonia		21 October 1991 (a)
Ethiopia		14 May 1991 (a)
Finland	26 January 1990	20 June 1991
France	26 January 1990	7 August 1990
Gabon	26 January 1990	
Gambia	5 February 1990	8 August 1990
Germany*	26 January 1990	
Ghana	29 January 1990	5 February 1990
Greece	26 January 1990	
Grenada	21 February 1990	5 November 1990
Guatemala	26 January 1990	6 June 1990
Guinea		13 July 1990 (a)
Guinea-Bissau	26 January 1990	20 August 1990
Guyana	30 September 1990	14 January 1991
Haiti	26 January 1990	
Holy See	20 April 1990	20 April 1990
Honduras	31 May 1990	10 August 1990
Hungary	14 March 1990	7 October 1991
Iceland	26 January 1990	
Indonesia	26 January 1990	5 September 1990
Iran	5 September 1991	
Ireland	30 September 1990	
Israel	3 July 1990	3 October 1991
Italy	26 January 1990	5 September 1991
Jamaica	26 January 1990	14 May 1991
Japan	21 September 1990	
Jordan	29 August 1990	24 May 1991
Kenya	26 January 1990	30 July 1990

* Through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany will act in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany". The former German Democratic Republic signed and ratified the Convention on 7 March 1990 and 2 October 1990 respectively.

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Kuwait	7 June 1990	21 October 1991
Lao People's Democratic Republic		8 May 1991 (a)
Lebanon	26 January 1990	14 May 1991
Lesotho	21 August 1990	
Liberia	26 April 1990	
Liechtenstein	30 September 1990	
Luxembourg	21 March 1990	
Madagascar	19 April 1990	19 March 1991
Malawi		2 January 1991 (a)
Maldives	21 August 1990	11 February 1991
Mali	26 January 1990	20 September 1990
Malta	26 January 1990	30 September 1990
Mauritania	26 January 1990	16 May 1991
Mauritius		26 July 1990 (a)
Mexico	26 January 1990	21 September 1990
Mongolia	26 January 1990	5 July 1990
Morocco	26 January 1990	
Mozambique	30 September 1990	
Myanmar		15 July 1991 (a)
Namibia	26 September 1990	30 September 1990
Nepal	26 January 1990	14 September 1990
Netherlands	26 January 1990	
New Zealand	1 October 1990	
Nicaragua	6 February 1990	5 October 1990
Niger	26 January 1990	30 September 1990
Nigeria	26 January 1990	19 April 1991
Norway	26 January 1990	8 January 1991
Pakistan	20 September 1990	12 November 1990
Panama	26 January 1990	12 December 1990
Papua New Guinea	30 September 1990	
Paraguay	4 April 1990	25 September 1990
Peru	26 January 1990	4 September 1990
Philippines	26 January 1990	21 August 1990
Poland	26 January 1990	7 June 1991
Portugal	26 January 1990	21 September 1990
Republic of Korea	25 September 1990	20 November 1991
Romania	26 January 1990	28 September 1990
Rwanda	26 January 1990	24 January 1991
Saint Kitts and Nevis	26 January 1990	24 July 1990
Saint Lucia	30 September 1990	

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)
Samoa	30 September 1990	
San Marino		25 November 1991 (a)
Sao Tomé and Principe		14 May 1991 (a)
Senegal	26 January 1990	31 July 1990
Seychelles		7 September 1990 (a)
Sierra Leone	13 February 1990	18 June 1990
Spain	26 January 1990	6 December 1990
Sri Lanka	26 January 1990	12 July 1991
Sudan	24 July 1990	3 August 1990
Suriname	21 February 1990	
Swaziland	22 August 1990	
Sweden	26 January 1990	29 June 1990
Switzerland	1 May 1991	
Syrian Arab Republic	18 September 1990	
Togo	26 January 1990	1 August 1990
Trinidad and Tobago	30 September 1990	
Tunisia	26 February 1990	
Turkey	14 September 1990	
Uganda	17 August 1990	17 August 1990
Ukraine	21 February 1991	28 August 1991
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	26 January 1990	16 August 1990
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	19 April 1990	16 December 1991
United Republic of Tanzania	1 June 1990	10 June 1991
Uruguay	26 January 1990	20 November 1990
Vanuatu	30 September 1990	
Venezuela	26 January 1990	13 September 1990
Viet Nam	26 January 1990	28 February 1990
Yemen	13 February 1990	1 May 1991
Yugoslavia	26 January 1990	3 January 1991
Zaire	20 March 1990	27 September 1990
Zambia	30 September 1990	
Zimbabwe	8 March 1990	11 September 1990